



We the undersigned are writing to urge you to vote against measures that would ban or undermine Sanctuary City policies.

**Sanctuary policies make our communities safer.** When a simple traffic stop or other minor encounter with law enforcement can end in the nightmare of deportation, immigrants will tend to avoid the police. However, when immigrants trust the police, they will be more likely to report a crime or to act as a witness. This makes our whole community safer.

Furthermore, if our local law enforcement agencies are spending their limited resources enforcing federal immigration law, they have less time and fewer dollars to spend on real crimes.

**Domestic violence survivors benefit from Sanctuary policies.** Abusers often use the threat of deportation to control immigrant women and keep them in violent relationships. Survivors of domestic violence have to overcome enormous levels of fear to report their situation to the police in the first place-- they shouldn't also have to fear deportation. Additionally, when police arrive on the scene of a domestic disturbance, they often arrest all the parties involved-- both the victim and the abuser. Sanctuary policies can help to ensure that the victim of abuse, who may in fact be eligible for a special visa, don't end up in the deportation process due to these erroneous arrests.

**Local communities understand how to police themselves best.** Lansing shouldn't be in the business of telling local police departments and sheriffs how to build strong relationships with their communities.

**Immigrants strengthen our state's economy and are key to increasing the populations of our big cities.** Immigrants, regardless of their status, are opening businesses, rebuilding homes, and revitalizing our communities. We need to be sending a strong signal to the world that immigrants are welcome in Michigan, not that their families might be in endangered.

Sincerely,

State Representative Stephanie Chang

Vincent Delgado, Lansing City Council

Detroit Councilmember Raquel Castaneda Lopez

Michigan United

Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS)

United Auto Workers International

Arab American Anti Discrimination Committee (ADC)

Latin Americans for Social and Economic Development (LA SED)

Macomb International Service Center

Sisters of Mercy Midwest

International Institute of Metro-Detroit

Asian Pacific Islander Americans Vote - Michigan

United Church of Christ, Michigan Conference

Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrants Rights

MI ALMA

Institute for Community Sociology

Detroit Conference of the United Methodist Church

Church of the Good Shepherd, United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti

Michigan League for Public Policy

Michigan Immigrants Rights Center

National Lawyer's Guild - Detroit Chapter

Justice for Our Neighbors, Methodist Legal Clinic

Toxatlan Women's Circle

Action of Greater Lansing

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